



United Methodist Herald

May 2020

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9:30am Worship with others at a Facebook: Watch Party

At 9:30 am Sunday mornings your pastors will host a Watch Party on Facebook of the Sunday Worship Connection video. If you have a Facebook account you can join in, adding your comments and amens in the running commentary and seeing those of others. While we cannot be physically together this is one way you can remember that you are part of a great body of Christ and others are worshipping at the same time you are.

10:00am Worship with others on NorthfieldMethodist.online.church

The same worship video will play in an experience hosted by online.church, a worship platform meant to help people to engage with each other and the scripture without much simpler technology. Your pastors will host this as well.

PRAY FOR:

Healthcare workers, emergency responders, and everyone considered "essential", those who have been infected and their families, our leaders for wisdom, and everyone who is economically already struggling. Lord in your mercy- hear our prayers.

With the health and safety of our community first and foremost in our hearts and minds, we continue to remain closed to all in-person meetings at the church regardless of size. Given the unfortunate circumstances surrounding Covid 19 (coronavirus), we feel it would be irresponsible to in any way endanger or unintentionally compromise the well-being of our church family and larger community. During this time there will be no staffing of the church office. If you are in need of assistance please email northfieldumc@gmail.com or contact Pastor Rachel at 507-403-0071. Please do not leave a message on the church phone as it is not being monitored during this time. You may also visit our website

northfieldumc.org for updates.
NUMC Administrative Council

Update: As of this publication, the Stay-At-Home Executive Order from Governor Tim Walz has been extended through the first week in May. We are in regular conversation with the MN Department of Health and other relevant officials for the safety of our most vulnerable and how we can do our part. We will gather again when it is safe to do so; in the meantime, we will work with our healthcare workers, emergency personnel, and essential employees by encouraging full compliance with CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines regarding social distance, personal protective equipment, hand washing, and all other ways we can work together to combat COVID-19.

Tithes and Offerings

By maintaining your weekly offerings during this time you help ensure that your care ministries are coordinated, your community is connected, worship is facilitated, small groups can continue to meet, and your church building is maintained and ready for the day we can all gather together again as family in Christ. You may mail your offering to:

Northfield United Methodist Church
1401 S. Maple St.
Northfield, MN 55057

The church mail is checked each day.

If you would like to give on-line you can do so via our website northfieldumc.org click on the GiveMN link. Or you may set up an electronic funds transfer each month by printing a form from our website and mailing to the above address or requesting a form at northfieldumc@gmail.com.

Contribute Your Praise

If you are a musician - if you play an instrument or sing a song - then please record yourself performing a hymn. Worship coordinator Wendy Smith would love to hear from you. Email her at WendyNUMC@aol.com.

Family Fare Receipts

Please continue to save your Family Fare receipts so that we can qualify for the \$1000 rebate. Keep them at your home until we are able to gather again and then put them in the box at the church in Fellowship Hall.

Message from the Pastor

Beloved church family:

It has now been over a month since we have been able to gather in person - our last Sunday in the sanctuary was March 8th, our final Super Wednesday March 11th.

In that time, nearly 30 folks have started a calling/texting/emailing ministry to ensure that folks in our congregation - and their neighbors!- have what they need. **IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS NOT GOTTEN CALLED/CONTACTED**, please email the church at info@northfieldumc.org; it means our information is likely out of date. If you are also in need of some help, you can let us know that way - we have a team of folks who have raised their hands to help with concrete items as needed. Masks have been shared (let's hear it for our UMW and other members who blew the dust off of old sewing machines!), groceries picked up, resources passed from those who have to those who need a bit of help in a tough time, and prayer concerns lifted up - as pastor I get a bird's eye view to (some!) of it, but I know that there are beautiful things happening that I don't see or hear about. I celebrate what is emerging and I bless what God is doing in you. What a privilege to be in ministry with you all.

Also since March 8th: we have produced at least two weekly videos (one for each Sunday, one for each Super Wednesday) for worship and "distance churching", KC3 coordinator Gregory

Ennis walked through Holy Week with the Passion story for our younger families, Pastor Jerad moved confirmation and Financial Peace University online, we have started our inaugural Google Hangout Bible study, and we have successfully moved nearly all church operations off-site through staff working remotely. Life may be unrecognizable from what was before. It's not the first time in human history or even the story of the church that this is true. But grace is still the ground we walk on, and the Spirit of God is out ahead of us, preparing the road to the unknown.

We will continue to be in conversation with the MN Department of Health and other officials as to when it is safe to re-convene; our commitment to the most vulnerable in our church family and our community remains rooted in I Corinthians 12: "As it is, there are many members, yet one body. the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." We are, by design, all in this together. So: "that which God has joined - let no one put asunder!"

Know you are loved. See you on the Easter side of it all.

Blessings, Pastor Rachel

Stewardship and Finance Update

In response to the new revenue realities that we, and so many others, are facing, church leaders have looked at various ways to manage our finances. Some of the steps taken include the following.

1. We're carefully managing our expenses to make the money in our checking account last as long as possible.
2. The Conference has generously waived our pastor pension and health costs for April, May, and June. This eliminates a significant expense for us.
3. We will withdraw interest earnings from our investments to support programs and pay our bills. We will do this several times this year if necessary.

We have applied for and have received a very low interest (1%) payroll relief loan through The **CARES** (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) **Act**. It will cover a bit over 2 months of our payroll and related expenses. If we meet certain criteria (such as not furloughing any employees) the loan will be forgiven. Needless to say we will do everything to make that happen.

We are hopeful that we can meet the spiritual challenge of financially supporting our church in these disruptive times. Let us strive to invest sufficient funds, talent, and time so we can continue to make possible our church's ministries. As you are able to, we invite you to prayerfully give what you can remembering that all we have is a gift from God.

Attention First National Bank of Northfield customers!

Effective May 16, 2020, First National Bank of Northfield is converting its banking systems to those at Merchants Bank. This means if you are set up to give electronically from your bank account to NUMC **you will need to submit a new authorization form** with your new Merchant Bank account information for any donations made after May 15, 2020. Please email northfieldumc@gmail.com and a new authorization form will be emailed or mailed to you.

General Fund March 2020 contributions \$21,897.66
General Fund March 2019 contributions \$40,059.22

General Fund YTD 2020 contributions \$90,433.85
General Fund YTD 2019 contributions \$92,682.60

Family Ministry Information

KC3 is still happening with weekly video posts within the Super Wednesday video. On the church website go to the Facebook icon and the current video will appear along with past videos from Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

While many things are in flux in our ever-changing world, these dates still belong on your calendar.

9th Grade Confirmation will meet online or in person at 6:30 pm on **May 13**.

Mission Trip to Wisconsin Dells, open for students in middle school, high school, and adult chaperones, is scheduled for **July 19-24**. The next PEPPER meeting to plan for it will be **May 20**. Registered mission trip participants can expect an email about this.

Graduation Sunday, when we honor and are led in worship by our graduating high school seniors, is scheduled to be **May 31**, the same date for which commencement is scheduled.



Notes from the Parish Nurse

As we continue to deal with COVID-19, we know that new information about the disease is being made available frequently. This month I will cover some topics that were not covered in the April Herald.

Ways to Reduce Stress in Everyday Life or When Coping as a Caregiver

- Begin each day by making a gratitude list and focusing on positive thoughts.
- Stay busy by focusing on enjoyable activities like reading, working on a hobby, practicing a musical instrument, cleaning out a closet, watching a movie, or listening to music.
- Maintain a regular daily routine of getting dressed, eating healthy meals, working or studying, exercising, and sleeping.
- Limit your exposure to the news, but occasionally check for up-to-date local or national recommendations.
- Seek emotional support by making connections with family and friends through texting, emailing, phoning or using other social media. Share with them how you are feeling.
- Use meditation, prayer, or other spiritual activities for support.
- Do something for others, whether it is making a phone call, sewing cloth masks, buying and delivering groceries to a shut-in, or raking a neighbor's lawn.

Ways to Protect Yourself when Taking Care of a Person who has COVID-19

- Wash your hands frequently and keep them away from your face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Choose a room in the home for "sick-bay", preferably one with its own bathroom.
- Wear a mask when you are in the same room with the ill person and maintain a 6 foot distance between yourselves.
- Don't share dishes, towels, bedding, or electronics
- Frequently clean faucets, sinks, table and counter tops, doorknobs, light switches, and toilets.
- When doing laundry wear gloves and keep items from touching your skin or clothing. Use regular detergent and dry items thoroughly. Wash your hands after properly removing your gloves.
- Do not allow visitors in your home.

Criteria for Ending Isolation after having COVID-19

- It is all right to leave your home 3 full days (72 hours) after your fever has subsided without taking any fever reducing medication AND
- your other symptoms have improved AND
- at least 14 days have passed since your symptoms first started.
- Contact your health care provider if you have any questions or concerns.
- If testing is available, one needs to have 2 negative tests in a row taken 24 hours apart.

Remember that rules for life activities are changing daily, even hourly because of the coronavirus. There are several helpful websites that you can check for more information: www.cdc.gov (Center for Disease Control), www.who.int (World Health Organization), www.co.rice.mn.us (Rice County Public Health Department), and www.health.state.mn.us (the Minnesota Department of Health.)

**NORTHFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Offering Christ

***E - NEWSLETTER
SIGN UP***



Northfield United Methodist Church offers an electronic option for our monthly newsletter. By having our newsletter available electronically, we will save costs on paper, postage and copier usage. The newsletter will still be available to those who want to receive a hard copy in the mail.

For those that sign up, you will receive an e-mail directing you to a link to view the newsletter. If you have more than one member in the household that would like to receive this e-mail, please list them also.

Please cut out this form, fill in the information and place it in the basket in the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

Please print clearly! Thank you!

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Name _____

E-mail Address _____

Our Church Staff

Pastors	Rachel McIver Morey Jerad Morey
Parish Nurse	Ruth Kruse
Office Administrator	Sandy Vesledahl
KC3 Coordinator	Gregory Ennis
Worship & Music	Wendy Smith
Child Care Provider	Kathryn Steed
Organists /Accompanists	Bob Henstein Donna Paulsen
Handbell Choir Director	Kathy Szydlo
Adult Choir Director	Randall Ferguson
Projection Coordinator	Molly Peterson
Custodian	Arturo Rosas Avila
Building Security	Margie Brockton
Sunday School Superintendent	Diana Huseth (Volunteer)
Treasurer	John Stull (Volunteer)
Web Site	Jesse Steed (Volunteer)

Retired Clergy: Wayne Abdella, Carl Caskey,
Richard Collman, Jeanne Martin, Dick Waters,
Mary Keen, Gordon Orde